

*D. Jacob A*  
SHORT COMPARATIVE

V I E W  
O F T H E

*Practice of Surgery*

I N T H E  
F R E N C H H O S P I T A L S :  
W I T H

Some R E M A R K S on the Study of  
ANATOMY and MIDWIFRY.

T H E W H O L E

Endeavouring to prove, That the ADVANTAGES  
to STUDENTS, in these Professions, are greater at  
L O N D O N, than at P A R I S.

I N T E R S P E R S ' D,

With Critical Observations on the Nature and Use of OIL of  
TURPENTINE, the BOUGIE, &c.

L O N D O N :

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# VOLUME

OF THE

GRANULAR  
IN THE  
KIDNEY

WITNESS

THE HISTORY OF THE DISEASE  
AND ITS TREATMENT

BY

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OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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TO THE  
READER.

**T**HE following Discourse is the Substance of several Letters, written at different Times (indeed only for my own Perusal and Improvement) from a particular Friend, then residing at Paris: And however ungrateful I may in this Publication appear, as I thought they contain'd some Remarks which might be useful to Many, I could not refrain giving them the Publick, after reducing their Bulk, and in some measure, digesting the Thoughts, which not being

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*design'd for Public Perusal, were consequently somewhat uncouth : And if in this Attempt, I have not express'd every Hint with that Accuracy of Stile the Author would perhaps have done (as on consulting him, I should certainly have been frustrated in my Design) the Reader must excuse any Errors, which from the Nature of the Thing could not be avoided.*

*And here I must (if I may use the Expression) make a bold Push to beg my Correspondent's Pardon, in Publishing (without his Leave) the Papers He design'd Only for my own Reading.*

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A S H O R T  
Comparative V I E W  
Of the P R A C T I C E of  
S U R G E R Y, &c.

**I**N the HOTEL-DIEU, the Wards are very lofty, and proportionable in Length and Breadth, but are so crouded with Beds, that I can't give the exact Dimensions : The Patients are here, generally, in Number about Four-thousand, more or less ; they are well nourished, and kept tolerably clean ; grown People lie from one to four in a Bed, Children from one to ten.

The *Surgeons* dress their Patients twice a Day, *viz.* at Five o' Clock in the Morning, and at Three in the Afternoon. Students have Liberty to visit any Part of this Hospital but the Lying-in Ward; they formerly had Liberty to see this Practice, but, on repeated Irregularities, this great Privilege was prohibited by an absolute Order from the *King*.

LE CHARITEE is the completest *Hospital* I ever saw, having no more Smell than a private House; it contains about a hundred and fifty Patients, all Men, who are taken care of by Priests, a Priest being Apothecary, and so on, to the meanest Servitude. The Floors are of Brick, round in the Middle, and flat on each Side. It is divided into five Wards, all on the same Floor, and each decorated with several admirable Paintings; the Wards are very lofty,



lofty, the largest is about sixty Yards in length, and twelve in Breadth.

The Patients (here) are dress'd at Seven o' Clock in the Morning, and Three in the Afternoon; the Number of Surgeons Patients is only thirty-two, the others being all Physical Cases; these are visited every Morning.

It may not be amiss, before I enter on Surgery, to write a few Words on their Practice of Physick, which consists in little more than repeated Bleedings, Clysters, and Ptisan; be the Case what it will, they never vary their Prescriptions, but repeat the same *iterum atque iterum*, till Death interferes, *vel Natura evincit Morbum*. They have great Dependance on their Ptisan; which induces me to give you the Composition.

℞ Hordei confriēt. et loti ℥ij.

Rad. Graminis purgatæ et obtritæ ℥j.

Coque in aq. commun. q. s. ad ℔viiij.

Sub finem Coctionem ad.

Rad. Glyz. contusæ, ℥ss. Qua injecta,  
statim vas remove ab Igne—Cola pro  
Ufu.

Some great Authors have said,  
*The more simple the Practice of Phy-  
sick, the better* : If so, certainly the  
*French* Physicians have done their  
Parts in reducing its Copiousness ;  
for, in the most languid Cases, they  
seldom use any Cordial Medicines,  
but stick (as Quacks to a Nostrum)  
to those abovemention'd.

I proceed now, to give you a con-  
cise Account of the Practice of Sur-  
gery in both Hospitals, with as  
much Accuracy as my Time will  
permit.

It is generally said in *England*,  
among the Common People, and  
some-



sometimes among the Learned, That a Man cannot be a good *Surgeon* and *Acoucheur*, without a Tour to *Paris*: This Opinion was, some Years since, universal, and probably would have still continued, had it not been for the known Improvements of Mr. CHESELDEN, and his Cotemporary Mr. FERN; whose Merits and Abilities have been equalled by Mr. SHARP and others. Yet, notwithstanding the Sanction of an Education at St THOMAS'S or GUY'S, the Generality in *England* have a better Opinion of the Abilities of a *Surgeon* educated Abroad. Several Instances of this Kind I have observ'd; nay, I have known some People that have absented themselves from their native Place about three Months; during which Time, it has been whisper'd about Town, they were gone to *Paris* for Improvement. They have return'd at  
the

the appointed Time, accouter'd *à la mode de Paris* ; talk of the *Practices*, *Customs*, and large *Œc's*, which they never see ; and thus pass in the Neighbourhood as accomplish'd *Surgeons* and *Acoucheurs*, or what not ?

Now I am of Opinion, that this Tour, far from being of Service, is quite the reverse, unless a Person is well acquainted with the *Surgery* in *England*, and has Judgment enough to distinguish the good from the bad Practice, and Sense enough to use the one and not the other ; to such a Person the Journey may be well enough ; but, How many ignorant and unexperienced Fellows think themselves good *Surgeons*, when they have been at *Paris* ! In fine, *Surgery* is but little understood even amongst its Practitioners (I mean, those) that have been educated Abroad, yet almost every Person  
thinks



thinks the *French* the best Surgeons in the World. As, for Proof :

A certain *Surgeon* of Repute in *London* came and resided here about six Weeks last Summer, during which Time he went thro' a Course of Operations with Mr. *Lewis*\*, and a Course of Bandages with Mr. *Farien's* † Boy ; and receiv'd such Improvements, that, on his Return to *London*, he gave a publick Course of Lectures of Diseases, Operations, and Bandages ‡. What first gave the *English* so high an Opinion of the *French Surgeons*, I can't take upon me to determine ;

\* Mr. *Lewis* is as known a Coxcomb as any in *Paris*, and his Course of Operations esteem'd one of the worst, being unacquainted with Practice, and having Scarcity of Subjects.

† A Boy, which Mr. *Farien* keeps to dissect for him in his Lectures ; who now and then picks up a few Louis-d'Ors, by pretending to teach others.

‡ For Particulars of this Course, see the Publick Papers of *September*, 1749.



it might formerly arise from the Advantages of publick Practice (as Hospitals were not then so numerous in *England*, as they now are.) But this Reason at present bears no Validity; for whoever attends the Hospitals of *London* and *Paris*, will learn, at the First, the Practice and Operations of Surgery, and at the Latter, nothing but Cruelty, Slovenliness, and Inhumanity! But of this hereafter.

The Reasons generally given for the superior Advantages to Students in Surgery at *Paris*, are, That they have Liberty to attend the Hospitals *gratis*, and have a greater Plenty of Subjects for Dissection. These Advantages, 'tis certain, they enjoy; but the Expence of Travelling, &c. scarce makes the first Advantage any at all; and the Expence of the other is not so trivial as People imagine. I dissected ne'er a  
Body

Body in *Paris*, but what lay me in two Guineas. I believe, Bodies (for Dissection and Improvement) are no where made so bad Use of (perhaps, occasion'd by the Ease with which they are obtain'd.) I remember to have seen four dissecting in a Theatre at one Time, soon after my Arrival: And had there, the good Fortune to see every Part, almost, dissected to View; but was much surpris'd to see the *Fascia* left on most of the Muscles, and, in some Places, great Portions of the *Membrana Adiposa*; the Muscles tore one from the other, I wish I could say, separated; this, indeed, might not arise from Want of Judgment, but good Knives, there being no good Dissecting-knives in *Paris*, consequently, no good Dissecting; their principal Instrument is the Bistree.



I can't here, omit mentioning the Behaviour of these People, who are said, in *England*, to be the most courteous and complaisant of any in *Europe*: As I was chiefly conversant with the Surgeons, I shall confine myself mostly to their Manners. The first Day I enter'd one of their Hospitals, a Fistula *in Ano* was to be dilated; a Friend, whose Business led him to get as nigh the Bed, where the Operation was to be perform'd as possible, accomplish'd his Desire pretty easily; but just before the Operation, one of the young Barbers collar'd him, and pull'd him by his superior Strength into the Middle of the Ward; this he was oblig'd to bear, *æquo animo*; and afterwards to be the Occasion of a general Laughter. This Affront I should never have mention'd, as a Proof of their Ill-manners, had he been the only Person who met with



with such Usage : Many of our Countrymen, who were here at the same Time for Improvement, met with Affronts much more deserving of Resentment. Their Behaviour to young Students, especially *English*, is in general brutish. The Appearance of these Gentlemen, is as mean and despicable as can be conceiv'd ; the meanest Journeyman Barber I ever saw in *London*, is equal to them in Dress and Complaisance : I don't now wonder, that Surgeons here are not respected as Gentlemen, for really there is scarce the Appearance of one in the whole Crew. The Pupils (or rather young Barbers) look, when together (setting aside the powder'd Coat) like a Company of new Recruits without their Regimentals. I have hitherto spoke of the Garçons only, but shall now speak in particular of some of the Hospital Surgeons. I

have heard some of these use the most ill-natur'd Expressions they could invent, to a Patient, for crying out while they were mangling him with a Knife, which to Appearance was as dull as an *English Coulter*. They are likewise very liberal with their Blows ; which, to a humane and charitable Man, is really shocking : This I can say, that no Beggar I ever beheld, demanded more Pity than these Patients. To support this Part of my Letter, I'll recite one Instance to which I was an Eye-witness. A poor Man, having fractur'd his Leg in a terrible Manner, was immediately brought to the *Hotel-Dieu* ; while the Surgeon (with great Force) was making the Extension, the Patient (as is natural) cried out ; on which, the Surgeon suddenly flung down the Leg, and beat the poor Man in as enrag'd a Manner as if he



he had greatly injur'd him. What a shocking Sight was this !----*Miserabile dictu !*

The Surgeons are, in general, very ungenteel to Students that are recommended to them : When any one delivers a recommendatory Letter, or pays them any Compliment, they coolly answer, but seldom (I believe never) think any more of it ; nor ever seem to know the Person after ; therefore I really think, all Letters of Recommendation are rather prejudicial than otherwise. The *French* are far from being complaisant and civil to *Englishmen* ; it is esteem'd a great Act among them to impose upon Strangers, which they do very liberally. I could go on much farther with common Customs ; but as this is quite foreign to my Intentions, and would greatly surpass the intended Brevity of this Letter, I must desist, and con-

fine



fine myself to the Observations and Practice I propos'd.

All Ulcers, in these Hospitals, seem to have the same Treatment; but before I speak of them, I'll just mention the Medicines they principally (I might say, always) use.

In the Middle of each principal Ward, are three Charcoal Fires, over which, are a great Pan of Cataplasm; a Pan of black Digestive\*; and a Vessel with some *French* Brandy and Oil of Turpentine: These are their topical and universal Applications. They don't seem to take any Notice of the different kind of Ulcers, whether Caries or putrid, old or recent, deep or superficial. For they treat all alike (*i. e.*) dress them with black Digestive spread upon Sharpee†,

\* The Basilicon of the Shops.

† A kind of Lint, being the cross Threads of coarse Cloth, separated for that Purpose.

and

and afterwards (be the Part ever so inflam'd) apply their Poultice almost boiling hot over the Whole; or otherwise, by way of Repellent, Defensive and Retentive, they cover the Part with a Piece of Adhesive Plaister, which is generally first dipt in hot Spirits. This, undoubtedly, must be very painful to the Patients; but their Case is but little consider'd, for the *French* Practitioners in general, handle Wounds very roughly. The Virtues of the *Ceratum de Lap. Calamin.* are here unknown, at least never relied on. They wipe all Wounds with coarse Cloth; I have observ'd them very carefully wiping some, where the Discharge was very good, and at the same Time dress others, that have discharg'd a putrid, ichorous, yellow, or fœtid Matter, in all their Nastiness, without any Wiping at all. This they urge was to prevent  
the

the Air having a bad Effect ; which they imagine has a detrimental Influence on Sores in general. Yet, were they not too knowing to learn, the Observations a learned Author \* has publish'd on that Topic, might sufficiently convince them, their Opinion in this Point was erroneous. But these Gentlemen have so high an Opinion of their own Judgment, that tho' Improvements in Surgery are daily produc'd by other Nations, particularly in *England* ; tho' these Improvements are founded, not on Reason only, but Experience, and warranted by the most accurate Observations, and recommended from a long Series of Success, they are endow'd with a Sort of Self-sufficiency, which renders them (thro' Pride) incapable of Instruction. I'll illustrate their Obstinacy in one Circumstance, *viz.*

\* *Vide Sharp's Surgery.*

Cutting



Cutting for the Stone ; they reject Mr. CHESELDEN's Improvement, to avoid wounding the Branch which runs from the Hypogastrick Artery, imagining terrible Consequences would thence ensue : But, I believe, the Fear of an Hæmorrhage is not so much their Objection to his Method, as their Obstinacy in not following the Improvement of another Nation, especially the *English*, whom they cordially hate. They must be sensible, that carrying the Instrument thro' the Ligamentous Parts of the *Urethra* (which they always do in their Method of Operating) must, by contusing and lacerating the Parts, be of worse Consequence, than could ensue on wounding the Artery abovementioned ; which (in Children) rarely happens, and, when divided, is with great Ease remedied by an expeditious Use of the Curve Needle ; in-

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deed,

deed, it would be more difficult for a *French*, than an *English* Surgeon, as they are not so conversant in its Use: And their Needle's being but little curv'd, renders their Use difficult in any Part, particularly in this, where so much confin'd for Room; their Opening being seldom more than an Inch and Quarter in Adults, and in Children never above one Inch.

The *French*, tho' they sometimes allow an *English* Surgeon to have great Judgment in Cases and Operations, will not allow he can dress Wounds well, for Want of good Lint. On what Grounds they exclaim against ours, I cannot judge; but, in these Hospitals, I never saw a Piece of good Lint, during my Stay. What they use is the Threads of coarse Cloth, which to the Touch is very hard, and, if applied dry, must be painful; but  
this



this they seldom do, as they have a sort of Aversion to dry Applications. For common Use, they make of this Sharpee a kind of Pledgit, in which, with these coarse Threads (let the Surgeon be ever so dextrous) there will be a very hard Knot in or near the Middle. This must, doubtless, be very uneasy to a tender Wound; I think the fine Tow, used commonly in *England* (supposing they had no Lint) would be much preferable to their Sharpee, in Respect to the Patient's Ease (which certainly ought to be consulted) and as it would absorb more Matter. If this, then, be on an Equality with their's, how much preferable is our Lint! being much softer, neater, and (consequently) much easier to the Patient. These superior Advantages, I think, make it evident, that the *English* Lint is as much preferable



to the *French*, as fine Tow to hempen Herds. To make a *Frenchman* believe this, is like washing a Blackmoor white ; having been so long prejudic'd in Opinion, they would think it a Crime in one another to allow any good Qualities to Surgeons of another Nation. Thus, tho' the *English* continue to make Improvements in every Respect, superior to the *French*, they will not easily obtain an equal Share of Merit or Reputation ; but of this let every Person judge.

I can't be particular on any kind of Ulcer, as they treat all alike ; therefore more would be tedious ; and I shall proceed to shew their Method of opening Abscesses, and Manner of dressing them ; with their Manner of treating recent Cuts, and Wounds of the Head, &c. I shall annex a Case of each, as they occur'd

occur'd to me while attending these Hospitals.

All Abscesses after Fevers, which are doubtless, the critical Discharge of the malignant Humours, are open'd by Incision ; the Wound is immediately cramm'd full of coarse Cloth, or Sharpee, generally the former ; if any Vessels bleed pretty freely, they stop them with Dossils dipt in Spirits of Turpentine, or some Styptic Powder ; rarely apply the Needle. They remove their Dressings the second Day, which generally occasions acute Pain, and a fresh Hæmorrhage. As they have no Notion of wetting their Dressings with warm Water, in order to bring them off easy, I think the coarse Cloth preferable to Sharpee, as it may be remov'd at once, and with more Ease to the Patient. In a large Abscess, tho' the Skin is much discolour'd, they never cut  
any



any of it away; the Dressings are (as in Ulcers) a Continuation of the black Digestive; and be the Discharge little or much, the Abscess great or small, the Patient is dress'd twice a Day; which, as they are so terribly frightened at the Air's coming to a Wound, seems to me a Paradox.

Scrophulous Tumors they open by Caustic, leaving the Eschars for Nature to suppurate, and never assist with the Knife.

Venereal Tumors, the Pox, and Claps, they cure by Salivation, making the Mercurial Course, weaker or stronger, according as the Stage of the Distemper indicates. They never open Buboes, but leave the Matter to be absorb'd and evacuated, by the Salivation. But how contrary this Practice is to Nature, we may be convinc'd by Experience, and the Opinion of the memorable

SYDEN-



SYDENHAM, who supposes all Tumors that tend to Suppuration immediately after a Fever, or arise from any Malignity receiv'd into the Blood, are the Crisis of the Distemper ; and their Discharge, in general a Radical Cure. That Buboes discharge a Portion of, if not the whole Virus of the Infection, is to me evident, from an Experiment I try'd on a Dog ; in whose Neck I made a small Incision, and convey'd into the Wound, some Drops of a fresh Discharge from a Buboe : I observ'd him carefully, and on the eighth Day, his *Penis* was swell'd, and a little of it hung below the Prepuce, which look'd very red ; he *whin'd* all Day, and was ever licking his Yard ; from these Symptoms, I concluded he was infected, I knock'd him on the Head next Day, lest he should do Mischief to his Species, and thinking the Experiment

riment somewhat cruel. Now, as there is a Quantity, more, or less, of the Venereal Poison in the Discharge of a Bubo, how bad must be the Practice which endeavours to disperse them ! (particularly when the Matter is already form'd) as the absorb'd Virus must certainly vitiate the whole Mass of Blood and Juices again, which might probably be wholly discharg'd by the Abscess ; and the Patient in Consequence of such Discharge, with little Trouble and few Medecines, become perfectly healthful. On the contrary (by the *French* Practice) his Cure is severe, *viz.* a Salivation of a Month, or probably, (nay generally) longer ; and Instances are not unfrequent, where this Virus is so great, as to resist repeated Salivations.

Wounds lacerated, or made by a sharp Instrument, are dress'd alike, with hot Oil of Turpentine: These  
they



they likewise open on the second Day from the Accident; after the two or three first Dressings, they have Recourse to their common Digestive with which they finish the Cure; they subdue Funguses of all Kinds, with the *Caustic. Lunar.*

They little regard Wounds of the Head, but treat them with equal Indifference, cramming them, if sinous, very full of Sharpee dipt as usual in hot Oil of Turpentine, in order to keep them open, and to prevent an Erosion of the *Pericranium*; the Consequence of this Treatment is very bad; but of this more hereafter.

In the Use of Sutures, their Practice is nearly the same as in *England*: They lay down pretty similar Rules. Mr. *Moreau*, PREMIER SURGEON of the HOTEL-DIEU, and a Man of the most Eminence in *Paris*, asserts, There is never Occasion to use the

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Suture

Suture for divided Tendons, as they unite again, equally well, with any other fleshy Substance, only requiring more Time. He has lately had two Cases, where the *Tendo-Achilles* has been divided, and both have done well without the Suture. Only proper Bandages and Rest, is absolutely necessary in this Accident : He keeps all his Patients in Bed, nine or ten Weeks.

Fistula's *in Perinæo* they cure with the *Bougie*, and almost every Surgeon here, has a Secret of this Kind ; they don't leave the Cure intirely to the Candle, but apply a warm Cataplasm to the Tumor once or twice a Day ; and if the *Perinæum* is ulcerated, they destroy the Callosities with the Caustic. These Cures are generally ten Weeks in perfecting.

Mr. *Daran*, has Orders to try his *Bougie* in the Hospital of Invalids ;  
where



where if it succeeds, 'tis imagin'd the *King* will purchase the Secret, this is look'd upon, as a surprizing Improvement in Surgery, yet I am inclin'd to think, it is crept into too general Use.

All Strictures of the *Urethra* and *Sphincter Vesica*, are primarily occasion'd by Inflammation ; nor is this Inflammation always the Effect of Claps (as imagin'd) but is sometimes constitutional, as I have seen. I remember a Case, where the Canal of the *Urethra*, was so much obstructed and clos'd, from the Head of the *Penis* to the Bladder, that the smallest Sound could not be introduc'd ; and the Patient was never clap'd. The third Day after the Suppression of Urine, the Operation of the *Paracentesis* was perform'd, which gave him immediate Relief ; the Urine look'd very black, and smelt extremely foetid ;

he liv'd ten Days after the Operation. The *Urethra* was open'd after his Death, which appear'd quite sound, except in a few Places, the *Lacuna* look'd very red. The internal Coat of the Bladder was easily separated from the other; look'd black, and smelt strong. The Surgeon concern'd for this Patient, (tho' a Man of great Skill and Experience) had so much Faith in the *Bougie*, that he neither order'd the Patient to be let Blood, nor us'd any Sort of Evacuations. The Application of the *Bougie* therefore, is more difficult than is commonly imagin'd. For to know, when the Strictures are occasion'd by Venereal Taints, or are the Effects of Inflammation from other Causes, requires something superior to a common Judgment. I've observ'd, that those Strictures which do not arise from Venereal Causes, are always  
 univer-



universal; whereas, those that arise from Venereal Taints, are only in particular Parts of the *Urethra*, and are generally found, immediately at the Nut and about the Middle of the *Penis*, and at the Neck of the Bladder: In the first of these Disorders, large Evacuations by Bleeding and Purging, are as successful, as the *Bougie* in the latter; but whoever thinks to cure the former by *Bougies* will certainly miscarry, as it is constitutional: And whoever attempts to cure the latter by Evacuations only, will likewise fail, because the Disorder is local. Therefore young Surgeons, should carefully examine into the primary Cause of those Disorders which affect the *Urethra*, and not depend too much on the *Bougie*, tho' it is on all Hands agreed, to be a Specifick for every Malady that obstructs Urine.

To

To support what I have advanc'd on their general Treatment of Wounds, &c. I shall produce three Cases. The first is of a Man who had a large Abscess, form'd on the Outside of the right Thigh after a Fever: He was brought to *Le Charité*; where by the Assistance of Poultices, in four Days, it was quite compleat and very large; the Skin about four Fingers Breadth below the great *Trochanter* (the most prominent Part) was much discolour'd, and seem'd very thin: It was opened the seventh Day, by mere Puncture, a large Quantity of good *Pus* press'd out, and then, as much Sharpee as the Orifice would admit, thrust into it, he rested well the first Night, but the next Day was in violent Pain; was dress'd the second Day, according to Custom with a Roll of Sharpee about the Thickness of one's Thumb, the End of which was dipt  
in



in black Digestive, and cramm'd into the Abscess about six Inches in Length, and renew'd twice a Day. The Patient remain'd in continual Pain, which I attribute to the Dressings and Confinement of the Matter. This Method was continued to the eleventh Day, nothing worth Notice occurring: On the thirteenth, he thought himself better, and did not complain of any Pain while dressing; from this to the nineteenth, he eat pretty liberally, the Abscess discharging in greater Quantity than the preceding Days: The 20th, he was attack'd with a Fever and Diarrhœa, which kill'd him in six Days after its Seizure.

I saw this Man open'd, and the Thigh dissected; the Matter had insinuated itself, betwixt almost every Muscle, some of which was probably taken up into the Course of Circulation, and thus occasion'd  
his

his Death. He was seemingly, of a good Habit of Body, and not much emaciated by the Fever which preceded this Abscess; had he surviv'd the Diarrhœa, I am pretty certain, there would have remain'd a very troublesome (if not incurable) Fistula, as the Dressings had form'd a fistulous Canal, which was evident to the Sight; and to the Touch like Horn: The Joint was not at all diseas'd, and this convinces me, that if the Opening had been six or eight Inches long, instead of one, and the discolour'd Skin taken off at the same Time, the Wound afterwards daily fomented and dress'd with a soft Digestive, he very probably would have recover'd, as I have seen many in *England*, to all Appearance much worse, soon do well. The good Effects of large Openings in Abscesses (particularly of the Thigh) I have frequently seen in the Hospitals of *London*,



*London*, and (*vice versâ*) the fatal Effects, of small, occur as frequent, in those of *France*.

CASE *the Second*.

A poor Man, that receiv'd a large Cut on the Outside of his right Arm, in Length about five Inches, from a little below the Elbow, almost to the Wrist, was drest up with hot Oil of Turpentine, &c. the third Day he complain'd of great Pain with-inside of the Arm and Hand ; he was still drest in the common Way. On the fourth Day, the Inflammation was extremely great, as likewise the Pain ; Oil of Turpentine, &c. (*ut ante*) with the Addition of a Poultice : The fifth, he thought himself somewhat better, the Warmth of the Poultice having procur'd him Rest ; from this to the ninth Day, he was in extreme Pain, very feverish and dry ; from thence

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to the 15th, much easier. There was now, a Collection of Matter from the Bend of the Arm to the Palm, which the next Day was opened by an Incision about three Inches in Length ; and this dressed in the same Manner as before, from the 16th to the 20th; the Discharge was very great, yet there remain'd a large Quantity of Matter in the Hand which was likewise open'd the 21st, a great Discharge following the Knife : By passing a Probe thro' this Incision, there appear'd a Communication with the former, to preserve which, there was drawn under the Carpal Ligament, a Strip of Cloth about an Inch wide, and near a Foot long. This was brought out again at the first Opening, and was drawn backwards and forwards, in the Manner of a Seaton, every Dressing ; one Day wetted with Spirits of Wine, and the other with Oil  
of



of Turpentine ; and now and then, with warm Balsam : The two Openings, were drest with hot Oil of Turpentine and Sharpee Tents cramm'd in as tight as the Patient could bear. This continued to the 30th Day, during which, nothing remarkable happen'd. The 32d, he had no Sleep, and complain'd of greater Pain ; next Day, the Discharge was increas'd and very stinking, the *Vagina's* of most (and some) of the Tendons themselves slough'd off ; in four Days after, he was taken with cold Sweats, and died.

It is very uncommon for recent Wounds, where there is no Laceration or Contusion, which are committed immediately, to the Care of a good Surgeon, to produce such terrible Events : But as the slightest Accidents, occasion the most violent Disorders, under the Direction of the best, while at another Time,

the worst Symptoms surmount the vilest Treatment; (which is very conspicuous in Wounds that are continually drest with hard Tents) it is here necessary, to run over a short Rationale, on the Occasion of these Maladies, which arise frequently from ill Habit of Body. and as frequently from improper Treatment. As this Constitution seem'd pure, I am afraid the whole Train of Mischiefs which happen'd, were occasion'd by the latter.

All Wounds are subject to Inflammation, according to their Size and the Disposition they happen to; this dissipates sooner or later, according to the Treatment of the Surgeon, and the good or bad Habit of Body.

The State of every Inflammation in recent Wounds, may be known by the Colour, Quantity, and Consistence of the Matter discharg'd from it; and in every Case where  
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the Discharge is not good, there is a Degree of Inflammation, which may be known by its Aspect ; and during the Time of a thin, serous Discharge, which all Wounds are subject to, there is certainly a great deal, which subsides, as the Matter gets more pure ; and as this Matter alters its Colour pretty gradually, so gradually, goes off the attending Inflammation, at which Time, the Wound granulates, and looks well.

It is certain that every Cut, nay even the slightest Scratch has its Stage of Inflammation, before it can heal ; therefore, Nature certainly must be the only Guide to adapt the just Height or Degree of this Stage, and any Medicines or Applications, that should increase this Inflammation beyond the Point Nature determin'd it, must certainly frustrate her Intentions, and consequently, occasion many pernicious, and perhaps

haps fatal Consequences. Thus likewise, where there is good Matter already form'd, and there is little or no Inflammation, the renewing that troublesome Symptom, by any improper Application, or plugging up the Matter with hard Tents, and thus checking the free Discharge which Nature had excited, must be equally prejudicial. Both these Consequences, happen'd in this Case ; the first, with stuffing a recent Wound, time after time with hot Oil of Turpentine and Sharpee Tents, which 'tis evident, occasioned the excessive Pain, Inflammation and Abscesses within the Arm and Hand : And *Secondly*, when these were opened by drawing a Piece of Cloth under the Carpal Ligament, among the Flexor Tendons to preserve a Communication between the Openings ; these were the sole Cause of many more Inflammations  
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and Suppurations; for no sooner one subsided, than others arose. From this Seaton being daily drawn backwards and forwards, (which consequently gave the Patient great Pain) the Carpal Ligament at his Death, was just worn thro', the Tendons almost all slough'd away, and the *Radius* and *Ulna* were both foul near their Extremities.

Now in these Cases, the most simple Applications, which will least interpose with Nature's Efforts, must certainly be best: Among these perhaps, none so efficacious, as a soft Digestive on Lint, or perhaps dry Lint, soft and well scrap'd; and an external Plaster, of *Cerat. de Lap. Calam.* a Cerate of Wax, Oil and Sperma Ceti; or if more adviseable, a Cataplasm of white Bread and Milk, made soft with a proper Oil. This Treatment, would not only be more judicious and easy to the Patient,

Patient, but probably be attended with more Success, than that above quoted.

When a Wound that is lacerated and contus'd, occasions of itself a greater Degree of Inflammation than the Surgeon may judge necessary to promote Suppuration, how preferable in such Circumstances would it be to use Evacuations, by Bleeding, Purges or Clysters, and other Antiphlogistick Medicines, than thus by pursuing the common Track, pervert Nature, in using hot Oil of Turpentine, &c. which are as far from producing the Effect propos'd, as a hot Iron would be, if apply'd to any Sore, to produce a Cicatrix.

To promote Suppuration, to prevent Mortifications, Putrefactions, &c. they have been long in great Esteem, but I am of Opinion, that a too liberal Use of them, especially in slight Cases, frequently produces  
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the very Effects they are intended to prevent; as by their Caustic Heat, they must often increase an Inflammation to a greater Height than Nature would otherwise carry it. This Conjecture allow'd, 'tis as probable they may terminate in Mortifications, and thence in Death, as in more favourable Events.

I remember, a compound Fracture in the Country, where several Surgeons were concern'd, which was dress'd with hot Oil of Turpentine pretty liberally, *i. e.* it was pour'd into the Wound; the Consequence of this, was immediate, excessive Pain to the Patient, an Inflammation, Mortification, and in a few Hours Death. The Fracture had no threatening Appearance before this Dressing, which was applied the fourth Day after the Accident.

Rectify'd Spirits of Wine, I think, must be nearly as prejudicial as the

Oil of Turpentine, for the same Reasons: And if the many Vulnerrary Tinctures in Use amongst Surgeons in general, but particularly in *France*; were reduc'd, or utterly exploded, the Practice of Surgery, would I believe, by no Means miss their Specifick Qualities.

CASE *the Third.*

A poor Fellow having a large Cut on the upper Side of the left *Bregma*, about an Inch and an half in Length, was brought to the HOTEL-DIEU; and thus drest; on one Side was a small Artery which bled freely; to this they applied some Styptic Powder, and thrust the other Part of the Wound, according to Custom, full of Sharpee dipt in Oil of Turpentine, and cover'd it afterwards, with several Bolsters of Cloth dipt in hot Brandy. The third Day, he complain'd of great  
Pain



Pain about the Wound, but had no Vomitings, nor Symptoms of a Fracture : His Wound was open'd, and drest as at first, the fourth Day, the Edges were greatly inflam'd, yet the same Dressings were continued. By the eighth Day, the Edges looked blue and flabby, and suppurated a large Quantity of Matter, which was yellow and very foetid, &c. and not having Room to discharge, began to insinuate itself between the Scalp and the *Pericranium* ; and by the 13th Day, they were separated for the Space of (at least) two Inches in Diameter : Notwithstanding these Circumstances, the Method of dressing was continued as at first to the 16th Day ; the *Cranium* began now, to look black in two or three Places, the Edges of the Scalp tuck'd in and look'd very badly, the Discharge stinking ; on the next Day, there were four Quadrangular Inci-

sions made, two Inches or more in Length, and the Angles in part cut off: The Dressings now were Sharpee dipt in Spirits of Wine, it was again drest on the 19th Day, and look'd much better; to the 22d the same Dressings. And nothing remarkable interfering, the Cure was perform'd by the 40th Day.

The Treatment of this Case, tho' crown'd with Success, I think was shocking; but as that may be learnt from what has been already said on their Practice in the preceding Cases, it would be only tedious and disagreeable to dwell upon it; every Person's Judgment will convince him, how preferable in these Cases, superficial Dressings and proper Bandages would have been, to the Methods us'd. Supposing the Scalp separated by a Collection of grumous Blood or Matter, and it was judg'd necessary to remove it, it  
would



would certainly be much easier to the Patient, and much more convenient for the Surgeon, to take an Oval Piece off at once, than to make Quadrangular Incisions, and afterwards cut off their Angles, as these kind of Incisions, most commonly require the Operation to be repeated, for the Matter lodging continually under them, separates the Scalp from time to time, and occasions many (avoidable) Imposthumations ; whereas, if the Opening was perform'd in the Manner before hinted, the Wound would, as Experience shews us, digest and heal kindly.

Their Use of Styptic Powders, Oil of Turpentine, &c. to stop Hæmorrhages, I cannot but think an absurd Practice, as in the first Place they are not secure, the Vessels being continually liable to bleed afresh, when once the Eschar they

occasion

occasion separates, and then they generally give great Pain. Now the Suture gives but little Pain, and is always secure.

After what has been said of the *French* Practice in general, I should be too partial not to recount an Instance wherein their Practice is more judicious (or at least more successful) than ours. And notwithstanding they treat all Cases as nearly as I could observe in the above Method, they have often the Credit of performing great Cures.

They excel us in the Application of Bandages, and their repeated Bleedings in Dislocations and Fractures, makes their Success in such Cases, greater than ours. They bleed these Patients, every six Hours, while the Symptomack Fever remains ; and it is almost surprizing, the Loss of Blood a Patient under these Circumstances will bear ; I remember



member a Man with a violent compound Fracture, who was bled eleven times in six Days, by which Means, notwithstanding the many threatening Symptoms, he recover'd in about ten Weeks. Their Treatment of these Cases, except the plentiful Bleedings, Clysters and other gentle Evacuations, is in general like the *English*, therefore to descend more into Particulars, would be only tedious. The Learned Mr. *Cheselden*, amongst his numerous Improvements has not forgot to tell us, the great Success he has had in Inflammations of the *Urethra* and Bladder, &c. by the liberal Use of Bleedings, Purges, &c. for which, see his *Anatomy*, (p. 262.) I think this Practice would be worth trying in every Case of Surgery accompanied with great Inflammation, or Contusion, I mean, it might be repeated

peated with the same earnestness that Great Man advises.

MIDWIFRY has not been short of bringing Students here for a Number of Years, and certainly, this was a fine School, when Students had the Liberty to visit the Lying-in Women, and attend the Labours of the *Hotel-Dieu* : I believe, it then, was preferable to any Place in *Europe*, but this great Priviledge has been forfeited a Number of Years ; as beforemention'd. *Lè Motte* tells us in his Preface, That he was oblig'd to content himself with waiting on the Physicians into this Ward, and writing down their Prescriptions, yet we have had since his Time, a great Number of People educated here, who have boasted the great Advantages they had when Students, in seeing the real Deliveries of this Hospital, and attending the



the Patients after. Mr. *Bracken* has been particularly careful in his *Midwifry*, to enlarge on these Opportunities: But he certainly forgot himself, or otherwise had never read *Le Motte*: 'Tis a Pity that a vain Ostentation, should induce a Man of his Probity, to pass such a gross Imposition on the World.

*Midwifry* is taught here by several, but the Person of most Repute, is *Mons. Gregoir*; whose *Machine*, has made much Noise all over *Europe*; therefore it may not be amiss, to give a short Sketch of its Fabric. It is compos'd of Basket-work, cover'd with coarse Cloth; the *Pelvis* is human, cover'd with Oil-skin: It has neither *Uterus Externum* nor *Internum*, nor any of the Contents of the *Abdomen*, the Want of which he substitutes with his Hands; in short, 'tis so rude a Work, that a common *Pelvis* stuck into a *Whale*, without any Embellishment, would

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be as like Nature, as this *Machine*, which has been so much admir'd : It has not any Appearance of Ingenuity, or Resemblance of Nature ; yet this *Machine* rude as it is, would probably have still kept its Reputation, had it not been for the surprising Genius of Dr. *Smellie*, whose *Machines* are really curious ; they are compos'd of real *human Bones*, arm'd with fine smooth Leather, and stuff'd with an agreeable soft Substance : All the Parts seem very natural, both to Look and Touch ; the Contents of the *Abdomen* are beautifully contriv'd, the Intestines look very natural, as likewise the Kidneys, and large Vessels. The *Uterus*, *Externum* and *Internum*, are made to contract, and dilate, according to the Difficulty intended for the Delivery. The *Children* for these *Machines*, are likewise, excellently contriv'd, they having all the Motions of the Joints. Their *Crani-*  
*ums*



*ums* are so form'd, as to give way to any Force exerted, and are so Elastick, that the Pressure is no sooner taken off, than they return to their natural Equalities. Too great a Force exerted in delivering with these suppos'd, has the same Effect it would have on real Children ; for as in real Nature, it would either break or dislocate some Part, so a too great Force us'd on these *Machines*, would intirely spoil their Elasticity : Thus, when a Person has Judgment enough to work well on these *Machines*, he would soon be a good *Accoucheur* : Whereas, one might work to Eternity, on *Gregoir's* Basket, and never know any thing of the Matter ; for let a Part, however difficult present itself, in his *Machine*, you deliver it as easily, as you would turn a Cork in a Pail of Water : So that whenever a Pupil who has been (only) e-

ficult Deliveries, he will be frighten'd at every little Resistance he meets with, in turning Children.

The Advantage Mr. *Gregoir* is said to have over Dr. *Smellie*, is that of having real Children, this at first appear'd to me a great Advantage, but I find it is not so ; for the Coldness of the Child, the Flabbiness of the Parts, and the Skin's Coming off at the least Touch, makes the Delivery seem much less natural, than that of the Leather Children. Now the *Uterus* and other Parts of Dr. *Smellie's Machine*, when a little warm by Use, seem as like Nature as possible.

The Expence of two Courses with Dr. *Smellie* is five Guineas, for which you attend four Labours, and deliver the last ; which Labours make an additional Expence of about one Guinea. If you attend Labours with Mr. *Gregoir*, the Expence is eight Livres to see him deliver



liver a Natural Case, eighteen to see him turn and deliver by the Feet, one Guinea if he delivers by Instruments, and if a Pupil delivers any unnatural Case, he pays two Guineas : And the same, for a Course of Lectures, which is divided into two Parts, *viz.* of Theory and Practice, which together take up at least three Months : The Theoretical Lectures are but indifferent, but his Practical ones, pretty good, as he relates many Cases, and makes judicious and good Observations. Yet on the whole, I think *London* a much better Place, to study MIDWIFRY, ANATOMY, and SURGERY, than *Paris*, both in respect to Expence, and Improvement.

It were to be wish'd indeed, that every young Surgeon, would make the best Use of those Opportunities for Improvement, their Native Country affords them ; it is not to be doubted, but many Geniuses might  
then

then arise, to the great Advancement of Surgery, and the Honour of *England* : But while the attending an Hospital, is made subservient (as I believe is too often the Case) to Extravagance and Pleasure, it is not to be wonder'd at, that Students in this University \*, should make as small Progress, as some in the once famous Seminaries of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*. But from an Insensibility of their own Interests, many young Surgeons return to the Countries, more polish'd, but less improv'd, than if they had remain'd in their former Situations. To People of this Cast, nobody I believe, will be absurd enough to imagine, this so fashionable Tour, can be any

\* I hope the Propriety of this Term will not be disputed as I think the extensive Good (in regard to instructing Youth) of our Hospitals consider'd, it cannot be deny'd, they ought to be esteem'd as such. And

The Similitude will appear more *natural*, to those who know how SCHOOL-BOY-LIKE the Majority of *Apprentices* and *Pupils* behave.

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real Advantage, as every gaudy Novelty attracts the Eye, and every strange Place the Attention, of a Person alienated from the Pursuit of Business ; and to a Person devoted to Study and the Improvement of his Capacity, I think it will appear sufficiently perspicuous, to be of little Service.

The *French* Pupils being less pamper'd than the *English*, and more strictly confin'd to their Studies, consequently reap more Advantage from an Attendance in an Hospital : But this is no Argument that their Opportunities for Improvement are greater than ours, indeed, rather exposes our own Weakness, who cannot imagine ourselves accomplish'd in the Profession, without a Tour to PARIS, if for six Weeks only, in which time, it will appear (from what is said above) impossible to reap any Advantage at all. It is a long approv'd Maxim, equally true and wise, that Travel oftener makes the finish'd Coxcomb,

Coxcomb, than the compleat Gentleman: And as an *Englishman*, I would advise those of my Countrymen, who design to make this Tour, not to be the Dupes of a Nation, who only ridicule us for apeing their *Follies*; and spending our Fortunes amongst them, for the Satisfaction of proving ourselves *Blockheads*. Let us rather embrace every Opportunity our native Country affords us, of excelling in our Professions, and by observing and imitating those Great Examples which are at the Head of our Hospitals, shew the *French*, that we need not copy any thing from them, but a Self-sufficiency, and Love for our own Country. And then (as I said before) it is not to be fear'd, but the next Age may produce Geniuses like those of the present; who (it may, without Vanity be said) both in respect to Judgment in Cases, and Dexterity in Operations, equal, if not excel, any that FRANCE ever produc'd.